

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. What is claimed is:

1.-8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A method of determining an increased likelihood of the presence of malignant melanoma in a subject comprising:

obtaining a sample from a subject at risk of having malignant melanoma;

contacting the sample with an antibody against GPC3;

quantitatively determining an amount of GPC3 detected in the sample;

comparing the detected amount of GPC3 to a control value;

concluding that an increased amount of GPC3 detected in the sample compared to the control value is indicative of an increased likelihood of the presence of malignant melanoma in the subject.

10. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the sample comprises a body fluid or skin sample.

11. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the sample is a body fluid comprising a serum sample.

12. (New) A method of determining an increased likelihood of the presence of malignant melanoma in a subject comprising:

obtaining a sample from a subject at risk of having malignant melanoma;

preparing DNA from GPC3 mRNA in the sample;

quantitatively determining an amount of GPC3 mRNA or cDNA in the sample;

comparing the amount of GPC3 mRNA or cDNA in the sample to a control value;

concluding that an increased amount of GPC3 mRNA or cDNA in the sample compared to the control value is indicative of an increased likelihood of the presence of malignant melanoma if the subject.

13. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the sample comprises a body fluid or skin sample.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein the sample is a body fluid comprising a serum sample.